

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A lumber drying kiln employs outside air pressure uses a
5 flexible collapsing bag or cover alone or in combination with
walls. The collapsing bag seals against a base to maintain the
vacuum. The air pressure against the flexible top keeps the
lumber layers from warping or cupping during drying. The lumber
stack has alternating layers of hot plates or stickers separating
10 layers of lumber. A bag having an open bottom and made of nylon-
reinforced rubber or other strong flexible material is placed
over the wood and sealed to the stainless steel platform. A
vacuum pump is connected with the bag by means of a manifold and
operated to remove air from the enclosed lumber stack, the vacuum
15 strengthening the seal between the base and the bottom of the
bag. This chamber design is easily scaled up or down to provide
a desired drying capacity.